

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable media causing a computer processor to operate a template production system, comprising:  
  
a template production ~~device to produce~~ function that produces a layout template ~~using at least one type of layout sample, combining a plurality of layout samples,~~ each of the ~~at least one type of layout sample~~ plurality of layout samples including at least one layout element laid in a layout frame,

~~the template production device producing the layout template such that a layout distribution of each layout element in the layout frame is registered in connection with corresponding likelihood in the layout template~~ the layout template having a layout position for the at least one layout element, and having a layout likelihood for an element-laying area that corresponds to a position of the at least one layout element in the layout samples combined to produce the layout template.

2. (Currently Amended) The ~~template production system~~ computer-readable media according to claim 1, each of the plurality of layout samples having a significance weighing factor, the layout likelihood being a weighed layout likelihood corresponding to the significance weighing factors for the layout samples combined to produce the layout template.

~~at least one of the plurality of layout elements assigned a weighting factor, and, for the layout element assigned the weighting factor, the template production device weights the likelihood of the layout element in the plurality of layout samples by the weighting factor, and the template production device registers the layout distribution of the layout element in the layout frame in connection with the weighted likelihood.~~

3. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable media having a template production program, comprising program that causes a computer processor to:  
a template production program for producing produce a layout template using at least one type combining a plurality of layout sample samples stored on the media, each of the at least one type of layout elements plurality of layout samples including at least one layout element laid in a layout frame, the template production program producing the layout template such that a layout distribution of each layout element in the layout frame is registered in connection with corresponding likelihood in the layout template the layout template having a layout position for the at least one layout element, and having a layout likelihood for an element-laying area that corresponds to a position of the at least one layout element in the layout samples combined to produce the layout template.

4. (Currently Amended) A method of producing a template, comprising:  
selecting ~~at least one type~~ one of a plurality of layout sample samples, each of the ~~at least one type~~ plurality of layout sample samples including at least one layout element laid in a layout frame;

determining the structure of each selected layout sample for each layout element; and

producing a layout template ~~in which the layout distribution of each layout element in the layout frame is registered in connection with corresponding likelihood in accordance with the structure of each layout element~~ by combining the selected layout samples and having a layout position for the at least one layout element, and having a layout likelihood for an element-laying area that corresponds to a position of the at least one layout element in the selected layout samples.

5. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable media causing a computer processor to operate a layout system, comprising:

a template production device to ~~determine the~~ function that determines a structure of ~~at least one type of layout sample~~ a plurality of layout samples, each of the ~~at least one type of plurality of layout sample samples~~ including at least one layout element laid in a layout frame, ~~for each layout element, and producing that produces~~ a layout template in which a layout distribution of each layout element in the layout frame is registered in connection with corresponding likelihood by combining selected layout samples and having a layout position for the at least one layout element, and having a layout likelihood for an element-laying area that corresponds to a position of the at least one layout element in the layout samples combined to produce the layout template; and

a layout device to ~~lay out~~ function that generates a new layout having at least one new layout element in the ~~a template~~ layout frame in accordance with the layout template produced by the template production device function.

6. (Currently Amended) The ~~layout system~~ computer-readable media according to claim 5, wherein

~~when the layout device creates a~~ function generates the new layout by laying the at least one new layout element in the template layout frame ~~of the layout template, the layout device lays and by laying~~ the at least one new layout element in accordance with the layout likelihood of each element laying area for each layout element registered in the layout template.

7. (Currently Amended) The ~~layout system~~ computer-readable media according to claim 6, wherein

when the layout likelihood is equal for ~~at least two~~ element-laying areas of each a layout element, the layout device ~~creates~~ function generates the new layout by laying ~~each of the~~ at least one new layout element in accordance with a priority assigned to each of the ~~at least two~~ element-laying areas.

8. (Currently Amended) The ~~layout system~~ computer-readable media according to claim 5, wherein

the layout ~~device~~ lays function generates the at least one new layout element by performing a process including dividing the layout template into a plurality of cells; calculating, for each cell, the mean values of vertical and horizontal lengths of each layout element that contains the cell and the layout likelihood of each layout element; calculating the sum of the layout likelihood of all cells included in an element-laying area placed so as to extend, from a cell taken as an extension start point, in a vertical direction by a length equal to the calculated mean vertical length and in a horizontal direction by a length equal to the calculated mean horizontal length, for each possible location of the extension start point; and selecting an extension start point that results in a greatest sum of layout likelihood and laying a corresponding new layout element in the element-laying area extending from the selected extension start point.

9. (Currently Amended) The ~~layout system~~ computer-readable media according to claim 8, wherein

the layout ~~device~~ function employs the area or the aspect ratio of each layout element instead of or in addition to the mean values, assigned to each cell, of vertical and horizontal lengths of each layout element.

10. (Currently Amended) The ~~layout system~~ computer-readable media according to claim 5, wherein

the at least one layout elements are element is classified into image information ~~whose~~ with a main part that is an image and into text information ~~whose~~ with a main part that is text;

when the template production ~~device~~ function sets the layout ~~distribution~~ position and the layout likelihood of a layout element ~~of~~ having text information, the template

production ~~device-function~~ also sets information indicating a font type and a font size of the text information; and

when the layout ~~device-function~~ lays the layout element ~~of having~~ text information in a particular element-laying area, the layout ~~device-function~~ determines ~~the a~~ font type and ~~the a~~ font size of the layout element in accordance with ~~the~~ information indicating ~~the a~~ font type and ~~the a~~ font size assigned to the particular element-laying area.

11. (Currently Amended) The ~~layout-system~~ computer-readable media according to claim 5, wherein

~~at least one of the plurality of the layout elements~~ element of each of the plurality of layout samples is assigned a weighting factor; and

~~for the layout elements assigned the weighting factor, the template production device weights the likelihood of the layout element in the plurality of layout samples by the weighting factor, and the template production device registers, in the layout template, the element laying area of the layout element in the layout frame in connection with the weighted likelihood~~ significance weighing factor, the layout likelihood being a weighed layout likelihood corresponding to the significance weighing factors for the layout elements combined to produce the layout template.

12. (Currently Amended) A ~~layout-system~~ computer-readable media according to claim 5, wherein

~~a weighting~~ significance weighing factor is assigned to each layout sample as a whole; and

~~the template production device weights the likelihood of each layout element in each layout sample by the weighting factor assigned to each layout sample in which the layout element is included, and the template production device registers, in the layout template, the element laying area of the layout element in the layout frame in connection with~~

~~the weighted likelihood whole, the layout likelihood being a weighed layout likelihood corresponding to the significance weighing factors for the layout samples combined to produce the layout template.~~

13. (Currently Amended) ~~The layout system~~ computer-readable media according to claim 5, wherein

~~for an element-laying area in which that corresponds to at least two layout elements that overlap each other, the template production device function calculates the sums of the layout likelihood of these the at least two layout elements over the plurality of layout samples and registers provides, in the layout template, the calculated sums of the layout likelihood in connection with corresponding to the element-laying area.~~

14. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable media having a layout program, comprising program that causes a computer processor to:

~~a template production program for determining~~ determine the structure of at least ~~one type a plurality of layout sample samples stored on the media, each of the at least one type of the plurality of layout sample samples each~~ including at least one layout element laid in a layout frame, ~~for each layout element, and producing and produce~~ a layout template by combining selected layout samples in which a layout distribution position of each layout element in the layout frame is registered in connection with identified as corresponding to a layout likelihood; and

~~a layout program to lay at least one new layout element in the a new layout frame in accordance with the layout template produced by the template production program.~~

15. (Currently Amended) A layout method, comprising:

~~determining the structure of at least one type a plurality of layout sample, each of samples, each of the at least one type plurality of layout sample samples including at least one layout element laid in a layout frame, for each layout element;~~

producing a layout template by combining selected layout samples in which a layout ~~distribution~~ position of each layout element in the layout frame is ~~registered in connection with~~ identified as corresponding to a layout likelihood; and

laying at least one new layout element in ~~the~~ a new layout frame in accordance with the produced layout template.

16. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable media causing a computer processor using a data structure of a layout template for use in creating to generate a layout in accordance with the layout template,

the layout template is produced by ~~using~~ combining a plurality of layout samples each including at least one layout element laid in a predetermined layout frame, such that, for each layout element, an element-laying area of the layout element in the layout frame is ~~registered~~ identified in connection with a layout likelihood of the layout element in the plurality of layout samples.